

## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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TOM LUNA STATE SUPERINTENDENT PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Idaho State Department of Education September 20, 2012 www.sde.idaho.gov Media contact:
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## STUDENTS CAN APPLY NOW FOR IDAHO SCIENCE & AEROSPACE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

BOISE – Idaho's high school juniors can apply now to take part in Idaho's Science and Aerospace Scholars Program. This will be the fourth year of this great program!

Through this competitive program, students from across Idaho take an engaging online course in space exploration and learn a broad range of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills aligned with Idaho's content standards. Based on their performance in this course, students are then selected to participate in a weeklong, all-expenses-paid, residential Summer Academy at Boise State University and NASA Ames Research Center in California.

"The Idaho Science and Aerospace Scholars Program will now be in its fourth year, and more and more students are seeing the great benefit of this unprecedented opportunity," Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna said. "Through a blend of digital and face-to-face learning, we are able to give students a deeper understanding of space exploration and the experience of working directly with experts in science, technology, engineering and mathematics both right here in Idaho and at NASA, no matter where they live in Idaho."

Through this program, nearly 200 students will take the rigorous online course, developed by Idaho Digital Learning Academy and NASA Johnson Space Center, and then take part in Capstone Celebrations at different sites across the state. Based on their work in the course, about half of these students will then be selected to participate in the Summer Academy held at Boise State University and at the NASA Ames Research Center in California.

In 2009, Superintendent Luna worked with astronaut and Boise State Distinguished Educator-in-Residence Barbara Morgan to create this program with seed money from the State Department of Education and in-kind donations from partner organizations. Now, the program is funded through a \$1.2 million grant from NASA.

If you know of any high school juniors who have a passion for STEM subjects, please urge them to apply for this outstanding program. The application deadline is **December 3, 2012.** 

To apply, visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/science/ISAS/ and download the application and instructions.

If you have questions during the application process, please contact Peter Kavouras at (208) 332-6975 or pgkavouras@sde.idaho.gov.

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